

Climate change and health risks: Assessing and responding to them through 'adaptive management'

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Abstract:

Climate change and associated changing weather patterns, including severe weather events, are expected to increase the prevalence of a wide range of health risks. Yet there is uncertainty about the timing, location, and severity of these changes. Adaptive management, a structured process of decision making in the face of imperfect information, is an approach that can help the public health field effectively anticipate, plan for, and respond to the health risks of climate change. In this article I describe adaptive management and how it could increase the effectiveness of local and national strategies, policies, and programs to manage climate-sensitive health outcomes.

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Resource Description

Early Warning System: M

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens, Ozone, Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Landslides

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

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Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Salmonellosis, Other

Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease, Plague

Zoonotic Disease: General Zoonotic Disease

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Other Health Impact: Heat stress; Heatstroke

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Methodology

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: M

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: M

format or standard characteristic of resource

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Review

Resilience: M

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified